



Signature Pipeline Release, C Street Sites

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation • Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Site Description

In late 1988 and early 1989, leaks occurred from the Butler Aviation (now referred to as Signature) pressurized Jet A fuel pipeline at two sites adjacent to C Street, between 16th and 19th Avenues in Anchorage. The first release occurred near Chester Creek, at the intersection of 19th Avenue and C Street and is referred to as the 19th and C site. It was reported by a passerby who observed free flowing product in the creek on December 20, 1988.

The second release occurred further north along C Street, between 16th and 19th Avenues and is referred to as the 16th and C site. The cause of the pipeline leak at 16th and C Street was reported as two pinhole leaks as well as other damaged pipe believed to have been caused by a backhoe scraping the pipe during the C Street reconstruction project.

Public Health and Environmental Concerns

The releases at both sites reportedly contaminated near-surface soils and both surface and ground water. At the 19th and C site, Jet A fuel was observed flowing in Chester Creek. The threat from the release included damage to the stream habitat and downstream marine environment, as well as a potential inhalation threat to residents along Chester Creek.

Response Actions

Excavation was limited by nearby underground utilities, Chester Creek, and the proximity of C Street. During the pipeline repair process, approximately 130 cubic yards of contaminated soil were excavated and removed from the 19th and C site and approximately 20 cubic yards from the 16th and C site. In addition to soil removal, three product recovery wells were installed: two 42-inch diameter wells at the 19th and C site, and one 24-inch diameter well at the 16th and C site.

Sorbent booms were placed in Chester Creek, recovery wells were installed, and a 600-foot long new section of pipeline was installed aboveground along the C Street bridge. The pipeline route beneath Chester Creek was abandoned. Total recovery of product from the recovery wells at the 16th and 19th Street sites is 269 gallons.

Current Status

Elevated levels of soil contamination remain in the Chester Creek Bridge south abutment at the 19th and C site. At the 16th and C site, soil contamination exceeding Department cleanup levels is present at the soil/groundwater interface within a 70 to 110 foot radius of the now-abandoned recovery well and the location of the pipeline break.

It has been reported that Signature intends to abandon the pipeline now that an alternative line has been constructed along the tidal flats. The Department will address all contamination issues associated with this pipeline at the time it is to be abandoned. Signature will be requested to complete additional characterization work to determine whether soil and groundwater contamination is migrating or has diminished over time.